



Social Security Administration



What You Should Know When You Apply For SSI Disability Benefits For Your Child

Children from birth up to age 18 may get Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. They must be disabled and they must have low income and few resources. Here are answers to some questions people ask about applying for SSI for children.



Q: How does Social Security decide if my child is disabled?

Social Security has a strict definition of disability for children. A child is disabled if:

- He or she has a physical or mental condition(s) that very seriously limits his or her activities; and
- The condition(s) has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 1 year or is expected to result in death.

An agency in your state makes the disability decision for us. They review the information you give us. They will also ask for information from medical and school sources and other people who know about your child. If the state agency needs more information, they will arrange an examination or test for your child, which we will pay for.



Q: How does Social Security decide if my child can get SSI?

Besides being disabled, your child must have little income and resources to be eligible. We also consider the family's household income, resources and other personal information.



Q: How can I get ready for the disability interview?

- Make sure you have as much of the information listed on the pink checklist as possible. Have the information with you for your interview.
- If you have access to the Internet, you can fill out a Child Disability Report online. Log on to www.socialsecurity.gov/childdisabilityreport ☐
- The blue medical and school worksheet can help you complete the Disability Report on the Internet or help you get ready for your interview.

Keep your appointment even if you do not have all the information listed on the pink checklist. We will help you get the information we need.



Q: How will I know what Social Security has decided?

It can take 3 to 5 months to decide a child's SSI disability claim. We will send you a letter telling you what we decided.

If we approve your child's claim, the letter will show the payment amount and start date.

If we do not approve your child's claim, the letter will explain why. The letter will also tell you how you can appeal our decision if you do not agree. It is easy to appeal. If you decide to appeal, contact us.

If you want more information, check our website, www.socialsecurity.gov/disability, or call us at **1-800-772-1213** between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on business days with specific questions and any time for general information. People who are deaf or hard of hearing may call our toll-free TTY number, **1-800-325-0778**.

Other Important Information

If You Are More Comfortable Speaking In A Language Other Than English

We provide free interpreter service on request to conduct your Social Security business. This service is available when you talk to us by phone or in a Social Security office.

State And Local Medical Assistance

SSI is not a medical assistance program. Your state Medicaid agency, local health department, social services office or hospital can help you find your nearest health care agencies. Your Social Security office can also help you find health care agencies.

Medicaid

Medicaid is a health care program for people with low incomes and limited assets. In most states, children who get SSI benefits can also get Medicaid. Even if your child cannot get SSI, he or she may be able to get Medicaid. Your state Medicaid agency, your local Social Security office or your state or county social services office can give you more information.

State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)

Your child may be able to get health insurance from the State Children's Health Insurance Program, even if he or she does not get SSI. SCHIP provides health insurance to children from working families with incomes too high to get Medicaid, but who cannot afford private health insurance. SCHIP provides insurance for prescription drugs and for vision, hearing and mental health services in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Your state Medicaid agency can provide more information about SCHIP. You can also go to www.cms.hhs.gov/schip or make a free phone call to **1-877-KIDS-NOW (1-877-543-7669)** for more information on your state's program.

Other Health Care Services

If your child is under age 16 and we decide he or she is disabled and can get SSI, we will refer him or her to your state children's agencies for social, developmental, educational and medical services. Even if your child cannot get SSI, these state agencies may be able to help him or her.

Work For Young People Who Are Getting SSI

As children approach the age to work, we have many ways to encourage those who get SSI disability benefits to go to work:

- We do not count most of your child's earnings when we figure the SSI payment. We count even less of your child's earnings if he or she is a student.
- We deduct the cost of certain items and services that your child needs to work from his or her earnings to figure the SSI payment.
- If your child is age 15 or older, he or she can establish a Plan to Achieve Self-Support (PASS). With a PASS, your child can set aside income for a work goal. We will not count this income when we figure the SSI payment.
- Your child's Medicaid coverage can continue even if his or her earnings are high enough to stop SSI payments, as long as the earnings are under a certain amount.

Your local Social Security office can provide more information about these work incentives. You can also find answers to many questions on our Work website, www.socialsecurity.gov/work. □

Your Privacy Is Protected

The Social Security Administration protects the privacy of those we serve. Our first regulation was written to ensure your privacy. As a federal agency, we are required by the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 522a) to protect the information we get from you.

Childhood Disability Interview Checklist

What You Need For Your Child's Disability Interview

You should have as much of the following information as possible for your interview. Use this list to keep track of the information you need.

Keep your appointment even if you do not have all of the information listed below. We will help you get any missing information.

- ✓ Name, address and phone number of every doctor, hospital, clinic, therapist and caseworker that has seen or treated your child
- ✓ Any of your child's medical records that you already have, including the dates your child was seen or treated and your child's patient ID numbers, if known
- ✓ Your child's medical assistance number
- ✓ Names of all medications your child is taking, or have the actual medicine bottles with you
- ✓ Your own observations about your child's daily activities
- ✓ Names, addresses and phone numbers of any schools your child has attended in the past 12 months, including the names of teachers, psychologists, counselors, speech and other therapists that have seen or treated your child
- ✓ Your child's Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) or Individualized Education Program (IEP), if he or she has one, and any other school records that you may have
- ✓ Names, addresses and phone numbers of any social services programs that have information about your child, such as Head Start
- ✓ Name, address and phone number of another adult who helps care for your child and can help us get information, if necessary
- ✓ Names, addresses and phone numbers of any employers your child has had
- ✓ Your child's original or certified copy of the birth certificate and, if your child was born in another country, proof of U.S. citizenship or legal residency
- ✓ Names and Social Security numbers of adults and children who live in the household
- ✓ Proof of current income for your child and family members living in the household (for example, pay stubs, self-employment tax returns, unemployment or other program benefits, child support)
- ✓ Proof of resources for your child and family members living in the household (for example, bank account statements, life insurance policies, certificates of deposit, stocks or bonds)
- ✓ Current lease or rent receipt for the household, if you rent

You can use this envelope to keep all this information together

MEDICAL & SCHOOL WORKSHEET - CHILD

This worksheet can help you to get ready for your disability interview, or to complete the Child Disability Report on the Internet. It lists some of the information that we will need about your child. You may want to write down some of this information in the spaces provided so that you will have it ready for your interview. We will not collect this worksheet.

A. The child's medical assistance number, if any. (For example, Medicaid.) _____

B. When his or her limitations began. (Month/Day/Year.) _____

C. The child's illnesses, injuries or conditions. _____

D. How they affect his or her activities. _____

E. Hospitals, clinics, doctors or therapists the child has seen in the past 12 months, and the approximate dates.

Name, Address, Phone & Patient ID Number(s)

Date(s)

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

F. Other agencies or programs that tested or examined the child, or that provided services (such as Head Start, Public or Community Health or Education Department, Child Welfare or Social Service Agency, WIC, Program for Children with Special Health Care Needs, Mental Health/Mental Retardation Center, or Vocational Rehabilitation).

Name, Address & Phone Number

Kind of Test

Date(s)

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

G. Medicines the child takes and the name of the doctor who prescribed each one.

Name of Medicine

Prescribed By

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

OVER

- H.** All medical tests the child had or will have for his or her illnesses, injuries or conditions, when and where done or will be done, and who sent the child for the test. For example, hearing test, vision test, IQ testing, blood tests, breathing tests, x-rays.

<u>Name of Test</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Where Done</u>	<u>Who Sent Child for Test</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

- I.** The child's current grade in school. _____

- J.** Schools or preschools the child is currently attending, and any other schools he or she attended in the last 12 months. Teachers' names.

<u>Name, Address & Phone Number</u>	<u>Dates Attended</u>	<u>Teachers' Names</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

- K.** School testing the child has had, such as tests for behavior or learning problems, when and for what school they were done.

<u>Name or Kind of Test</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Name of School</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

- L.** Name of special education teacher, if the child gets special education services.

- M.** Name of speech therapist, if the child gets speech therapy.

- N.** Employer names, addresses, phone numbers, and a description of the work if the child has worked. Any problems the child may have had doing the job.

<u>Name, Address & Phone Number</u>	<u>Kind of Job</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

Any problems in doing job. _____